

The Veil

II Corinthians 3:1-18 ¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, inscribed on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³It is clear that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴Such confidence before God is ours through Christ. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim that anything comes from us, but our competence comes from God. ⁶And He has qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷Now if the ministry of death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at the face of Moses because of its fleeting glory, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹For if the ministry of condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry of righteousness! ¹⁰Indeed, what was once glorious has no glory now in comparison to the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹For if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which endures! ¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at the end of what was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were closed. For to this day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant. It has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be removed. ¹⁵And even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into His image with intensifying glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. Paul stresses that He should not have to **prove** that He has authority over the Corinthian church. V. 1-5
- B. His claim of authority comes from the fact that the **Holy Spirit** has validated his ministry among the Corinthians. V. 6
- C. He **compares** this authority with the authority of the Law of Moses. V. 7-11
- D. This promise of glory to come gives us **hope** and emboldens us. V. 12
- E. The glory that Moses had from interacting with God **faded** away and a veil was given to him so that the Israelites would not know of this. V. 13
- F. Anyone trying to **earn** salvation by works still has to deal with this veil. They are fooled and only in Christ Jesus is this veil removed. V. 14-16
- G. Only the Holy Spirit of God, who is God, can give true **freedom**. V. 17
- H. We should be so **different** than anyone else who has not been transformed. V. 18

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A. We should seek to **honor** those who have authority over us and not make them constantly earn it.

- B.** We have to realize that no one can earn salvation. It is a **gift** from our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C.** We must seek to know the Holy Spirit and the **power** that is to be found in this relationship.
- D.** We need to seek Jesus Christ if we feel that something is **blocking** the power from our life.